

## Message Text

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44

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CU-02 DEAE-00 CIAE-00

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PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AGR-05 AGRE-00 EB-07 COME-00

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R 280714Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2346

INFO CINCPAC

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMCONSUL MANDALAY

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

DEA BANGKOK

MCOMSUL CHIANG MAI

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

USINT BAGHDAD

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SUBJ: JOINT WEEKA #38, SEPTEMBER 21-28

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1. COUP PLOT TRIAL CONTINUES (LOU)  
THE COUP PLOT TRIAL CONTINUED WITH DAILY SESSIONS EXCEPT ON THE WEEKEND. DEFENSE REQUESTS FOR ACCESS TO CONFESSIONS MADE BY FOUR OF THE ACCUSED AND FOR EX-GENERAL TIN OO'S RELEASE ON BAIL WERE DENIED; AND TESTIMONY WAS TAKEN FROM THE TWO ACCUSED CAPTAINS WHO LAST WEEK AGREED TO SERVE AS PROSECUTION WITNESSES AND FROM A BATTALION COMMANDER WHOM ONE OF THE CONSPIRACY LEADERS HAD TRIED UNSUCCESSFULLY TO INVOLVE IN THE PLOT.

TESTIMONY THUS FAR TENDS TO CONFIRM THAT THE PLOT, WHILE REAL, INVOLVED MUCH MORE TALK THAN SERIOUS ORGANIZATION. ALTHOUGH IT SEEMS CLEAR THAT GENERAL TIN OO DID HAVE CONTACT WITH SOME OF THE CONSPIRATORS, THERE IS NOTHING THUS FAR TO INDICATE THAT HE WAS AWARE OF THEIR ASSASSINATION PLANS; AND IT APPEARS HE TRIED TO DISCOURAGE THEM FROM TAKING ANY RASH ACTION.

CAPT. OHN KYAW MYINT'S REQUEST FOR U.S. POLITICAL ASYLUM WAS MENTIONED PUBLICLY FOR THE FIRST TIME BUT WAS NOT ELABORATED UPON. THE BURMESE LOCAL EMPLOYEE WHO WAS ON GUARD DUTY AT THE GATE OF THE AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE WHEN CAPT. OHN KYAW MYINT CAME THERE JULY 2 IS AMONG 85 WITNESSES STILL TO BE HEARD AT THE TRIAL.

COMMENT: IT IS ENCOURAGING THAT THE GUB HAS RESISTED ANY TEMPTATION TO USE THE ASYLUM REQUEST AS A PEG ON WHICH TO HANG DEMAGOGIC ACCUSATION OF "CIA DE-STABILIZATION PLOTS" OR SIMILAR ANTI-U.S. PROPAGANDA SO FREQUENTLY INDULGED IN BY OTHER THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES.  
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2. NARCOTICS: ARRESTS AND SEIZURES (UNCL)  
THE LOCAL PRESS CARRIED DAILY ACCOUNTS OF POLICE AND CUSTOMS ACTIONS AGAINST NARCOTICS TRAFFICKERS AND USERS. A KILOGRAM OF HEROIN WAS SEIZED AND TWO PERSONS ARRESTED IN LASHIO; CUSTOMS AGENTS SEIZED KYAT 200,000 WORTH OF HEROIN AND ARRESTED THREE SUSPECTS IN HSIPAW; THREE PERSONS WERE ARRESTED AND KYAT 20,000 WORTH OF OPIUM WAS SEIZED IN THE

MON STATE; TWO PERSONS WERE ARESTED FOR POSSESSION OF SIX PACKETS OF HEROIN IN MANDALAY; THREE SUSPECTS WERE TAKEN INTO CUSTODY FOR HEROIN POSSESSION IN RANGOON; AND POLICE IN PEGU DIVISION UPROOTED MARIJUANA PLANTS REPORTEDLY NUMBERING IN THE THOUSANDS AND ARRESTED TWO PLANTATION OWNERS.

3. EDITORIALS POINT OUT DANGERS OF NARCOTICS ABUSE (UNCL)  
TWO EDITORIALS IN THE VERNACULAR PRESS HIGHLIGHTED THE DANGERS OF NARCOTICS ABUSE WITH EMPHASIS PLACED ON THE SOCIAL AND PHYSICAL PRICE PAID BY HEROIN ADDICTS. BOTH EDITORIALS CAUTIONED THE YOUTH OF BURMA TO AVOID THE PERILS OF NARCOTICS ADDICTION FOR THEIR OWN SAKE AS WELL AS FOR THE SAKE OF THE NATION.

COMMENT: MEDICAL AUTHORITIES IN RANGOON HAVE STEPPED UP THEIR EFFORTS TO INFORM THE CITY'S YOUTH ABOUT THE DANGERS OF NARCOTICS USE. WEEKLY PRESENTATIONS ARE BEING MADE TO SELECTED GROUPS OF YOUNG PEOPLE. THESE EFFORTS, AND THE TWO EDITORIAL CITED ABOVE, DEMONSTRATE A GREATER AWARENESS OF THE SOCIAL PROBLEMS RESULTING FROM INCREASING DRUG ADDICTION.

4. NAVAL ATTACHES VISIT BURMA NAVY VESSEL (LOU)  
ON 25 SEPTEMBER THE OUTGOING U.S. NAVAL ATTACHE, CAPTAIN GRAHAM, AND THE U.S. ASSISTANT NAVAL ATTACHE MADE A PREARRANGED VISIT TO THE BURMA NAVY VESSEL YAN GYI AUNG. THIS WAS THE FIRST VISIT TO A BURMA NAVY VESSEL IN RECENT YEARS BY U.S. NAVAL OFFICERS, AND IS A RARE EVENT FOR AN ATTACHE IN RANGOON. THE YAN GYI AUNG IS A 180-FOOT FORMER MINESWEEPER TRANSFERRED TO BURMA VIA THE MAP PROGRAM.

5. PADDY PURCHASE PRICES FOR 1976-77 CROP (UNCL)  
THE GUB MINISTRY OF TRADE ANNOUNCED PADDY PURCHASE PRICES LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FOR THE 1976-77 CROP WHICH ARE UNCHANGED FROM LAST YEAR. HOWEVER, THE GUB RAISED THE ADVANCE PURCHASE PRICE (CREDIT) FOR PADDY FARMERS FROM K50 TO K70 PER ACRE.

COMMENT: GUB PROCUREMENT PRICES REMAIN RATHER INFLEXIBLE WITH LITTLE OR NO CONSIDERATION GIVEN TO THE LEVEL OF FREE MARKET PRICES. SHOULD FREE MARKET PRICES DROP AS THE RESULT OF ANOTHER GOOD HARVEST, MAINTAINING LAST YEAR'S PRICES WOULD AMOUNT TO A RELATIVE PRICE INCREASE FOR OFFICIAL PURCHASES, BUT, OF COURSE, IF FREE MARKET PRICES RISE, THE REVERSE WOULD BE TRUE.

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y FOR MRN (3285 VICE 3289)

6. RICE SALE TO INDONESIA (LOU)

AN INDONESIAN EMBASSY SOURCE SAID INDONEASIA HAS ORDERED  
70,000 TONS OF RICE FROM BURMA. SHIPMENTS ARE TO BEGIN IN  
NOVEMBER AND BE COMPLETED BY JANUARY. INDONESIA WILL PAY  
CASH FOR THE RICE.

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7. TRAINEES TO AUSTRIALIA (UNCL)

THE BURMA BROADCASTING SERVICE'S OFFICER IN CHARGE OF FARM BROADCASTING IS TAKING PART IN A THREE-MONTH COURSE IN RURAL BROADCASTING AT SYDNEY SPONSORED BY THE AUSTRALIAN DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE AGENCY; AND THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR IS ATTENDING A THREE-MONTH INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS OFFICERS' COURSE AT SYDNEY UNDER COLOMBO PLAN AUSPICES.

8. NEW AMBASSADOR TO IRAQ (UNCL)

THE GUB AMBASSADOR TO EGYPT, U THA TUN, HAS BEEN APOINTED CONCURRENTLY AS AMBASSADOR TO IRAQ.

9. BURMESE JOURNALIST APPOINTED COLOMBO PLAN INFORMATION OFFICER (UNCL)

U TIN MYA, A RECENT IV GRANTEE, HAS BEEN APPOINTED AS THE NEW INFORMATION OFFICER OF THE COLOMBO PLAN BUREAU. HE IS THE FIRST BURMESE EVER TO HOLD A COLOMBO PLAN INTERNATIONAL STAFF POSITION. U TIN MYA, 43, IS AT PRESENT FEATURES EDITOR OF THE (ENGLISH) WORKING PEOPLE'S DAILY.

10. SOVIET PARTY JOURNALISTS END VISIT (UNCL)

A THREE-MAN CPSU JOURNALIST DELEGATION, HEADED BY THE CHIEF EDITOR OF THE SOVIET PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE'S "AGITATOR," ENDED A TEN-DAY VISIT HOSTED BY THE BSPP. THE DELEGATION MET WITH BSPP EDITORS AND VISITED SEVERAL INDUSTRIAL SITES AROUND BURMA.  
OSBORN

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